

Abstract

The invention concerns an optical security element and a system for visualising items of concealed information comprising such an optical security element. The optical security element has a substrate layer in which a relief structure defined by relief parameters, in particular relief shape, relief depth, spatial frequency and azimuth angle, is shaped in the surface region defined by an X-axis and a Y-axis, for producing an optically perceptible effect. One or more of the relief parameters defining the relief structure are varied in the surface region (27) in accordance with a parameter variation function. The surface region (27) is divided into one or more pattern regions (29, 30) and a background region (28). One or more of the relief parameters defining the relief structure are varied in the one or more pattern regions (29, 30) in accordance with a parameter variation function which is phase-displaced in relation to the parameter variation function of the background region (28). There is further provided a verification element which has a verification grating which is defined by a periodic transmission function and whose period corresponds to the period of the parameter variation function.

(Figure 2b)